

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 9, 2013

**MEMO To:** Steven Stokes, Acting Technical Director  
**FROM:** Thomas Spatz, Pantex Site Representative  
**SUBJECT:** Pantex Plant Report for Week Ending August 9, 2013

**Board Staff Activities:** This week, B. Laake was at the Pantex Plant to observe the Nuclear Explosive Safety Change Evaluation for operational changes associated with the Issue G weapon response.

**Issue G Weapon Response:** Late last week, Babcock & Wilcox Pantex (B&W) issued a Justification for Continued Operation (JCO) following the July 8, 2013, release of the draft Issue G weapon response summary document. This week, the NNSA Production Office (NPO) issued the Safety Evaluation Report (SER) with no conditions of approval or technical comments. B&W issued the JCO, and NPO issued the SER, prior to completion of all safety basis documentation that resulted from the new weapon responses. Several tools were upgraded from non-credited tooling to safety-class controls due to load bearing functional requirements. B&W has not completed the structural analysis for all safety-class tools prior to issuing the JCO. NPO sent a letter to B&W directing them to confirm, during the Implementation Verification Review, that all calculations supporting the new tooling functional requirements are complete prior to resuming operations.

This week, NNSA performed the Nuclear Explosive Safety Change Evaluation (NCE) for operational changes associated with the Issue G weapon response. NNSA limited the scope of the NCE to bay operations on the specific configurations given in the Information Engineering Release with new weapon responses. The tooling analysis mentioned above was not complete at the beginning of the NCE, and was not included in the input documentation. The NCE team completed the evaluation with no pre-start or no post-start findings.

Operations on this weapon program remain paused. B&W is preparing to perform the Implementation Verification Review.

**Low Water Level Alarm:** This week, B&W experienced another low-level alarm in the same water tank that experienced repeated low-level alarms last week. (See report for 8/2/13.) B&W entered Limiting Conditions for Operation (LCO) 3.4.4D, *Low Water Level Alarm System Indicator is found to be Inoperable on a tank with an Operable Diesel Fire Pump/Tank Combination*, and manually measured the water level. B&W was performing planned maintenance operations that required water to flow out of the high pressure fire loop. The NPO fire protection subject matter expert believes the domestic water supply to the tank cannot make up water fast enough to overcome the outflow from the planned maintenance activities. B&W does not monitor the tank water level when performing planned maintenance activities. NPO and B&W are working together to resolve the issue.

**Fire Penetration Seals:** This week, B&W completed replacement of the last suspect fire penetration seal. (See report for 7/5/13.) This concludes an effort to replace suspect fire penetration seals that began in August 2012. (See report for 8/10/12.)